

Application No.: 09/524,587
Amendment Dated: February 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: November 6, 2003

MAT-7927US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 23, 24, 26, 27, 30-32, 34-36 and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lindblad (U.S. Patent No. 5,404,277). It is respectfully submitted, however, that these claims are patentable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention is recited by claim 23, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... a light-emitting-section ...

... wherein an angle formed by two planes ... where said light-inlet plane exists between the two planes, is an acute angle.

This is illustrated by Applicants' Figure 20. A marked-up copy of Applicants' Figure 20 is enclosed as Exhibit A. The two planes mentioned above refers to planes 42a and 42b in Figure 20. The light-inlet plane (situated between point m and point q) is situated between plane 42a and 42b. The angle formed by planes 42a and 42b is an acute angle.

The feature of an acute angle formed by two planes (with a light-inlet plane between them) is neither disclosed nor suggested by Lindblad. Specifically, Lindblad does not show two planes forming an acute angle with a light-inlet plane therebetween.

Furthermore, Applicants have added the feature to claim 23 of:

... a light reflecting plane above said light inlet plane ...

The light reflecting plane corresponds to Applicants' plane 50b.

Given the position of Applicants' light-inlet plane relative to his light reflecting plane, and the angle formed by the two planes of the light guide member with the light-inlet plane therebetween, claim 23 is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record.

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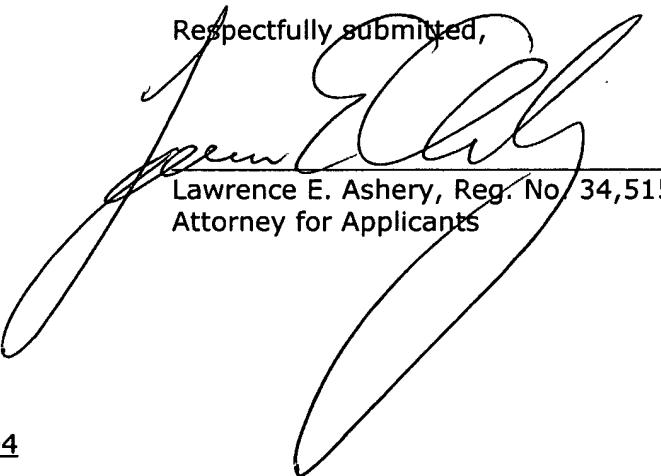
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Applicants' remaining independent claims also include features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 23. Thus, Applicants' other independent claims are also patentable over Lindblad.

Applicants' dependent claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims. Furthermore, while claims 28 and 29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lindblad in view of Koike (U.S. Patent No. 5,528,709), these claims are also patentable by virtue of their dependency on allowable independent claims.

For the reasons set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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SW/fp

Attachment: Exhibit A

Dated: February 6, 2004

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EXHIBIT A

FIG. 20

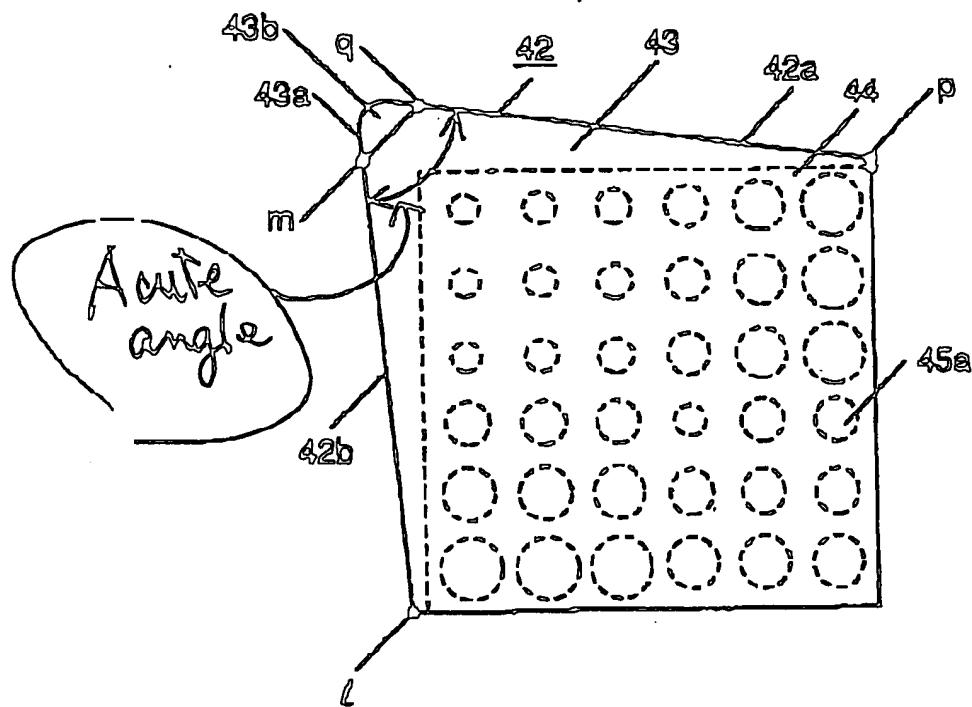


FIG. 21

